

## Restoration of the Rose Garden Cafe

The Friends are delighted that, two years after the café closed, a structural engineer confirmed that the internal scaffolding can be removed and the café can be fully reopened. The roof is basically sound, although it needs retiling. The Friends are now working in a Partnership with Sheffield City Council and the Save the Rose Garden Café group, to fully restore and renovate the café, a very positive Partnership, put in place by the council's Charity Sub-committee in November 2023. The Partnership is currently working on plans to fully renovate the café and we are going to apply for funding. We hope that, if this Partnership is successful, it can be used as a template by other groups, as a new way of working together with the council. Let's hope so.

In the meantime, we now have over **£11,219** in our campaign fund. Another **£20,000** has been pledged in Council Community Infrastructure Levy Funding. Our intrepid walkers, Gertie



and David and their fellow walkers, continue to walk to raise funds with guided walks and sponsored round walks. Anyone wishing to join in with fundraising or donate can find further details on our website, or visit our Just Giving fundraising page. Joining **easyfundraising** will also support our cause from now on, via this link: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/cause/s/fogravespark/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=pmc&utm\\_content=gs-email1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/cause/s/fogravespark/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-email1)

**Join us! Become a member of Friends of Graves Park and help us to protect and improve J. G. Graves's generous gift.** By becoming a member, **for only £3 a year**, you help us to have a louder voice.

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# Friends of Graves Park

Newsletter

Charity no: 1080407

Summer 2024

## Introduction from the Chairman

Welcome to the Friends of Graves Park's summer newsletter. I am pleased to invite all members to our AGM for this year, which will be held at Mount View Methodist Church, Derbyshire Lane, on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 7-9 p.m.

## Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper for All

Our project, Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper for All, is coming to an end. It feels like we have been working on this for such a short space of time and have done so much, yet it is 18 months since our journey started! The public, schools and groups supported and enjoyed the many events, thanks to lottery players.



The grant of **£142,770** from the National Lottery Heritage Fund made this project possible and the results are fantastic. We have so much information and project outcomes, which will be available online for all to access. Most exciting are the pocket maps, covering the Heritage, Trees and Wildlife themes within the park. Each one is a guide to significant features in the park and everyone who has seen them is very impressed. They will continue to be available over the next few months, so if you do not have yours yet, call in at the Rose Garden Café or your local library, or alternatively, you can download off the websites. We also plan to update the noticeboards in the park, including project information, another positive outcome. There will also be 4 reports, based on our records, which we hope will help to add protection to the park.



## Final Project Activities and Walks

### August

**Tuesday 20th, 11.15am to 12.45pm, Reminiscences & Local History in and around Graves Park** with Christine Handley at the Norton Hotel. Adding more memories and reviewing what's been collected to add to the local history archive. No need to book, but please let us know if you are joining us: email [syeconet@gmail.com](mailto:syeconet@gmail.com) or tel: 0114 272 4227 (tea & coffee available).

### September

**Thursday 5th, 10am to 12pm, Recording Birds Walk:** meet next to Rose Garden Café, our regular monthly session, a gentle introduction to recording birds, beginners welcome. (no need to book).

**Saturday 7th, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper for All: part of the Heritage Open Days festival:** Guided walk to uncover old routes in Graves Park. Meet at Derbyshire Lane entrance (no need to book).



**Thursday 12th, 7pm to 9pm, Bat Recording Walk:** Meet next to the Rose Garden Café. Introducing people to recording bats.

**\*Please book – 20 places available\*:**  
<https://bookwhen.com/sybrg#focus=ev-sqj7-20240810090000>

**Sunday 15th, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper for All: part of the Heritage Open Days festival:** Guided walk to uncover old routes in Graves Park. Meet at Derbyshire Lane entrance (no need to book).

**Tuesday 24th, Festival of the Mind. The Project will be there 12-1 in the Spiegeltent in Barkers Pool, for a special screening of our project film.**

## Graves Park's Trustee and the Charity Commission

**Our correspondence with the Charity Commission** regarding SCC's activities as trustee continues. We are determined to keep the Charity Commission informed about decisions by the Trustee whenever disposal is part of their plans and we will be at every Charity Subcommittee we can attend, to remind the trustee of its obligations and duty. In March, the

Charity Subcommittee was asked to approve a response to the Charity Commission, which gave us insight into what the Trustee has been planning since 2016. A further meeting in July, with another letter from the Charity Commission, made it clear that the council has been trying to dispose of the Norton Nurseries site to itself, so that it can officially run the site as a parks depot. Because they do not have a licence to do this, they intend to apply for one and transfer ownership of the land to themselves by way of a lease. As the Charity Commission has informed them that they are probably acting in breach of trust already and that they cannot apply for a licence in retrospect, it will be interesting to see what the Trustee does about the situation.

**The Friends will continue to oppose** any attempts to lease or dispose of charitable parkland and will keep reminding the Charity Subcommittee of its role and responsibilities as trustee. We will also continue to inform the Charity Commission about what is happening. As soon as we have a response from them to our letter of complaint in May, we will let you know.



## Chantreyland Meadow and Arboretum + Norton Nurseries Extension

**The Friends are still waiting for the opportunity to start work on the next section and SCC is well aware of this.** We have met with councillors and discussed the proposed work on several occasions, twice on site. On each occasion, it is clear that the councillors are sympathetic, particularly when they look across an expanse of derelict land which is virtually unused. The restoration of the site back to parkland is not in the parks department plans, although the subcommittee trustees appear to be more supportive and we are hopeful that fairly soon we will be given permission to begin the restoration of the next section of the arboretum, which will be our winter woodland memorial garden.

**In the meantime our intrepid volunteers** continue to maintain the first 2 sections of the restoration to a very high standard, to the continued delight of visitors. Keep up the good work guys!

